REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the office action dated May 26, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested. In this office action, the pending claims 1-6 are rejected as anticipated by *Moses* US 6,314,517. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As apparent in the specification and is now further emphasized in the claims, the computer is configured as a server for collecting a plurality of request from recipient computers. In conventional online protocols as taught by *Moses,* the server creates a signature request thus creating an information bottleneck when supporting a plurality of requests for confirming signatures. However, in accordance with the present invention, one signature is used for a plurality of requests serving several responses at one time. Computer 101 collects such requests during the time interval, prepares a set of corresponding responses to such requests organized into a data structure and then transmits these.

It is further now claimed that an exemplary and preferable data structure is a Merkle authentication tree as shown in figure 5. Such a tree is not shown in the art, and expedites the transmission of such a digest. Therefore, in view of these distinctions, reconsideration and allowance of the claims requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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